(c) whether sufficient stocks are available to meet the shortfall; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure full availability of foodgrains during the coming months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Governments of Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh have reported damage to crops due to rains and hailstorms during February and March, 2007. As per available information, damage has been caused to wheat and other crops.

State-wise details of crop area affected, as reported by the States/as per available information, is indicated below:

| State | Crop area affected |
|---|---|
| Haryana | 5.78 lakh acres |
| Madhya Pradesh | 1.74 lakh hectares |
| Punjab | 2.15 lakh acres |
| Rajasthan | 2.93 lakh hectares |
| Uttarakhand | 1.54 lakh hectares |
| Uttar Pradesh | 4.12 lakh hectares |

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Promotion of Bt. cotton**

3199. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have been identified as holding special promise for hybrid Bt. cotton;

(b) if so, what are these and to what extent; and

(c) whether direction, if any, has been issued to different States to promote hybrid Bt. cotton?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Bt. cotton hybrids have been released

for commercial cultivation in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The area under Bt. cotton as reported by States during the last four years is given here under:

| States | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. P. | 3762 | 5400 | 70400 | 330000 |
| M.P. | 1470 | 13200 | 85119 | 134639 |
| Gujarat | 9031 | 41200 | 124463 | 149317 |
| Maharashtra | 12280 | 21600 | 159600 | 488000 |
| Karnataka | 2160 | 3000 | 33906 | 27909 |
| Tamil Nadu | 370 | 7600 | 11856 | 17800 |
| Punjab | - | - | - | 72000 |
| Haryana | - | - | - | 12000 |
| Rajasthan | - | - | - | 2281 |
| TOTAL: | 29073 | 92000 | 492544 | 1233946 |

The area under Bt. cotton for 2006-07 was 34.40 lakh ha. provisionally.

No directions have been issued to States to promote Bt. cotton hybrids. However, awareness workshops have been organized in the States to educate stake holders, including farmers, about various aspects of Bt. cotton.

**Post harvest technology**

3200. SHRIMATI N.R DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the aims and objectives of post harvest technology;

(b) how bringing the scheme of Post Harvest Technology under Technology Mission for Oil Seeds, Pulses and Maize has helped in stepping up the production of oil seeds, pulses and maize; and

(c) the details of indigenous technologies developed through R&D and the details of demonstration units set up?